

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/472,677

Examiner

Chau Nguyen

Applicant(s)

SMITH, MARK D.

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/04/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-5, and 9- 11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In interpreting the claims in light of the specification and applicant's arguments, the Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

The prior art of record includes Jones et al. (Jones), US Patent No. 6,199,098, Junkin, US Patent No. 6,493,717, and Ferrel et al. (Ferrel), US Patent No. 5,878,421.

Jones discloses a method and apparatus for navigating through electronically stored information using an expandable, hierarchical index or table of content in a hypertextual client-server network environment such as the World Wide Web. A publisher of the table of content provides to the server a digital specification of the table of content, defining the table of content as a plurality of hierarchically related nodes, and the server dynamically generates a network page specifying display of a hierarchical portion of the table of content entries (Abstract, and col. 4, line 37 – col. 6, lines 28).

Junkin discloses the ability to create, share and manage structured database information on the Internet by providing a DataCrawler system furnishing a pre-built framework for web database applications that browse and edit database information directly using an HTML-based Internet browser. DataCrawler also provides powerful navigation and editing functionality. Junkin teaches a DataCrawler system includes an

Art Unit: 2176

interface being capable of utilizing relational/linked data, separate administration and en-user access, easily configurable access to database views, full editing (insert, updating, and delete) capabilities (Abstract, and col. 4, lines 20-28). Junkin also discloses the DataCrawler system incorporates a reusable Universal Data Access Graphical User Interface for navigating and editing database information (col. 4, line 29 – col. 5, line 29 and Figs. 2, 3, and 4), and when a Web server receives a request from a Web browser, the information may be an up-to-date stock quote is sent to the Web browser (col. 1, line 64 – col. 2, line 2).

Ferrel discloses information map interface providing access to the structure of both the tile and the content within the tile and navigation though the tile is based on the customer's interactions with the information map control. Ferrel discloses a World News section of a MSNLive title using a NewsFront page layout (site view layout) showing a tabbed horizontal bar of major sections of the title (HTML table structure) and the content and layout for the title (table of contents includes HTML list structure) (col. 16, line 60 – col. 17, line 39 and Figs. 6&7); the structure of a title layout organized in the form of an outline which includes title node, heading node, and body node, and each of these nodes may refer to specific content values or specific attributes, and when a user clicks on a story heading node, a page corresponding to the story will be displayed (col. 20, line 44 – col. 21, line 23).

Claim 1 is allowed because the prior art of record does not expressly disclose alone or in combination a navigation view as an index on the content database, the

Art Unit: 2176

index being dynamically updated whenever additions or deletions of area category or content items are made to the content database, executing an agent to access the site navigation view to obtain and display to the user current area category and items for the content database, and a table of contents or site view can be dynamically updated in the matter previously claimed using an agent in combination with a site map form and a table of content form. Examiner finds the arguments on page 40 43 in the remarks to be persuasive since the prior art of record does not teach alone or in combination the specific steps executed by the sitemap agent as amended in claim 1.

Claims 3-5 and 9-11 are considered allowable for the same reasons set forth for claim 1 above.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2176

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4092. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild, can be reached at (571) 272-4090.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chau Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2176


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER